

MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2002  
PARAMEDIC TASK FORCE MEETING  
EMS Authority  
Sacramento

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>EMSA STAFF PRESENT</u>	<u>ALTERNATES PRESENT</u>	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>ALTERNATES ABSENT</u>
Sabina Imrie Jim Pointer Kevin White	Nancy Steiner Connie Telford	Mike Metro	Dean Anderson Debbie Becker Bill Bower Darryl Cleveland Carol Gunter Jim Holbrook Bill Koenig Tom McGinnis Kym Mitchell Jan Ogar Kevin Rittger Cheryl Smith	Linda Anderson Nancy Eubanks Nancy Justin Dick Mayberry Linda Mulgrew Ray Navarro David Nevins Frank Pratt

**I      Review and approval of March 5, 2002 meeting minutes**

**II      Setting of the Agenda**

Sabina Imrie requested that discussion of the QI Guidelines be added to the agenda regarding adding a mediation process to the local EMS agencies assessments should there be any complaints about a local EMS agency. Nancy stated that this document is still under development and there will probably be more changes and that the PTF will be discussing this document further at the June meeting.

**III      Update on Status of Proposed Changes to Sections 100177 and 100178 and Proposed Addition of Section 100178.1 of the Paramedic Regulations**

Nancy gave an update to the PTF members on the status of the proposed changes to the paramedic regulations that are currently in process. She explained that the two investigation fees that were originally in the proposed regulations were denied by the Administration because they felt someone that had previously served a penalty for a crime should not be penalized again by having to pay an additional fee. The \$50 service charge for late renewal applications was returned by the Governor's Office without approval or disapproval and the decision was deferred to the Health & Human Services Agency (H&HSA). The fee was approved by H&HSA and is now at the Department of Finance (DOF) pending a decision. The entire rulemaking file is now with the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and if the fiscal impact statement is signed by DOF and OAL approves the rulemaking file it should become effective around the middle of July. If the fee is approved the EMS Authority will begin sending out notifications with the renewal license applications that are sent out in July or August (which would include license renewals that expire in January or February 2003).

There was some discussion that having to have renewal applications in a month prior to the expiration date would not give the paramedics the entire 24 months to acquire their 48 hours of CE. Nancy explained that the EMS Authority may look at alternatives, other than requiring that CE be completed during the current licensure cycle, such as using the date the last application was filed with the EMS Authority as the starting date for reporting CE for the next cycle. She also explained that in the future the EMS Authority is looking at paramedics being able to renew their licenses on line and, therefore, that date would be captured at the time the application is submitted. The Authority will also be having some internal discussions to see how paramedics that work for departments that pay the paramedics' fees and require that applications be turned into the department 45 – 60 days early could also be accommodated. There was also some discussion that to expedite the renewal process, some departments might certify that their paramedics have completed the required hours of CE rather than having each paramedic list all CE hours on the application and the Authority review each individual application.

#### **IV Review and Discuss Proposed Changes to Article 3 of the Paramedic Regulations**

Based on discussion at the last meeting, CPR and anatomy and physiology will be added as prerequisites to entering into a paramedic program (these items were not included in this draft but were discussed at the last meeting).

It was requested that there be some kind of an exemption from the eligible sponsor's criteria required by CoAEMSP for programs, such as training programs for CHP, State Fire Marshal and the Joint Apprenticeship Committee that statute allows to be approved by the EMS Authority because these programs would not qualify under the CoAEMSP requirements for affiliation/sponsorship with a college, hospital, etc. It was discussed, however, that the reason for requiring a program to be accredited by CoAEMSP was to assure the educational quality of the program. Nancy will contact the CoAEMSP and discuss this issue and see if they are aware of any other avenue for a program that is not affiliated with one of the required sponsors to obtain accreditation. It was also requested that a representative from CoAEMSP come and do a presentation for the PTF. Nancy will bring information on CoAEMSP to the next meeting and will contact them to see if it is possible for them to come and give a presentation to the PTF.

The PTF reviewed the changes made to Article 3 of the Paramedic Regulations. In Section 100148 (d), language was added requiring that copies of all evaluation documents that are required to be sent to CoAEMSP be sent to the approving authority for the paramedic program as well. There was some discussion on whether copies of the documents should be sent to the EMSA or the local EMS agency.

There was also some discussion regarding whether or not approval of paramedic training programs should be moved to the EMS Authority, but it was noted that currently the State does not have the resources to administer this task and would require a change in statute. It was suggested that this topic be discussed again when more members are present.

Under Section 100149-Teaching Staff, the PTF discussed looking at the requirements of

CoAEMSP for teaching staff to see if California's regulations should have similar requirements. Section 100149 (e) (2) (referencing field preceptors) will be rewritten to read something to the effect of; "Working in the field as a licensed, accredited paramedic for the last two years," to ensure that the preceptor is currently practicing as a paramedic. Section 100149 (f) (2) (referencing clinical preceptors) will be worded similarly, but will specify "in the appropriate discipline". It was suggested that the same qualifications (i.e., completion of Fire Instructor 1A and 1B or "Techniques of Teaching" courses) listed under program director qualification for CE providers should be included in the qualifications for the principle instructor of a paramedic training program.

Under Section 100152-Field Internship, (e) there was a lot of discussion as to whether or not the requirement for at least half of the ALS patient contacts providing the full continuum of care from initial contact to releasing the patient to the hospital should include when the patient is released because the patient does not require, or refuses, transport. A decision was not made at this meeting so it will be discussed again at the next meeting. Nancy will email the members of the PTF the discussion regarding this issue and request their input and request that they be prepared to discuss this at the next meeting.

There was discussion on the field internship issues that included ideas such as:

- ? Requiring multiple types of contacts by rotating paramedic students into different areas and/or working with different preceptors and/or among different agencies.
- ? Balancing cost benefits vs. the length of internship, number of contacts, types of contacts, lack of paramedics, etc.

Nancy informed the PTF members that the web address for CoAEMSP is [www.coaemsp.org](http://www.coaemsp.org) if anyone wanted to read the entire accreditation guidelines and that a contact there that works with the paramedic programs is Sharon Miller (303) 650-4575. Nancy will also review the requirements for teaching staff, field preceptors, clinical preceptors and field internships in the CoAEMSP guidelines to compare them with the proposed regulations.

A suggestion was made that Section 100160 (Required Course Content) in the current regulations be deleted and refer only to the US DOT National Standard Paramedic Curriculum.

There was also a suggestion that there be a change in statute that would require local EMS agencies, that have paramedic training programs, have their programs approved by the EMS Authority.

## **V      Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be June 4, 2002 in Burbank.

## **VI      Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.